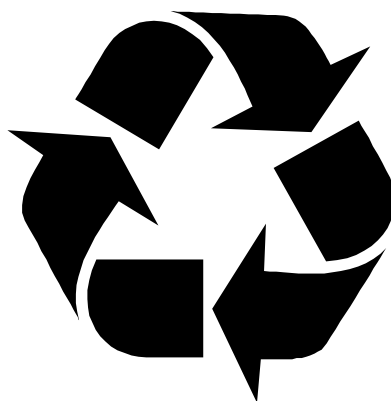


COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

RECYCLED PROCUREMENT ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 1996



Operational Services Division
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Department of Environmental Protection

November 21, 1996

printed on recycled paper with 100% post-consumer content

November 21, 1996

Dear Interested Reader:

We are pleased to introduce the Commonwealth's fiscal year 1996 Recycled Procurement Annual Report. This report describes the progress that Commonwealth agencies made in fiscal year 1996 to increase their purchases of recycled products, and charts the course for the state's environmental procurement program in fiscal year 1997.

The success demonstrated in this report is the result of cooperative efforts by the Executive Office for Administration & Finance, the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Operational Services Division, the Department of Environmental Protection and, most importantly, the state agencies and authorities that purchase the recycled products discussed in the report.

As you will see, the report illustrates the continued growth of our environmental purchasing program. Our purchases of recycled products have expanded rapidly from \$2.8 million in fiscal year 1992 to more than \$21 million last year. These purchases are a crucial part of our statewide recycling effort, because they help "close the loop" on recycling, creating a market for the products we recycle at home and at the office. In addition, recycled product purchases stimulate growth of the Massachusetts economy, by contributing to the expansion of our 12,000-job recycling industry.

We are looking forward to even greater success in the future, as agencies build on their achievements from the past year, and we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Baker
Secretary, Executive Office for
Administration & Finance

Trudy Coxe
Secretary, Executive Office of
Environmental Affairs

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